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(54) **Hybrid optical disk recording medium, disk drive device, information processing system and method of processing information**

(57) A hybrid optical recording medium is arranged to allow original information that is pre-recorded in a mass manufacturing process to be supplemented by additional information written to the disk after the original information has been recorded using a disk drive. The medium contains a first optical area for storing information which is pre-recorded according to a highly struc-

tured standard format and a second optical area in which supplemental information can be written, read back therefrom, erased and changed by a computer connected to the disk drive. A disk drive device for driving a hybrid optical disk recording medium, an information processing system and a method of processing information are also claimed.

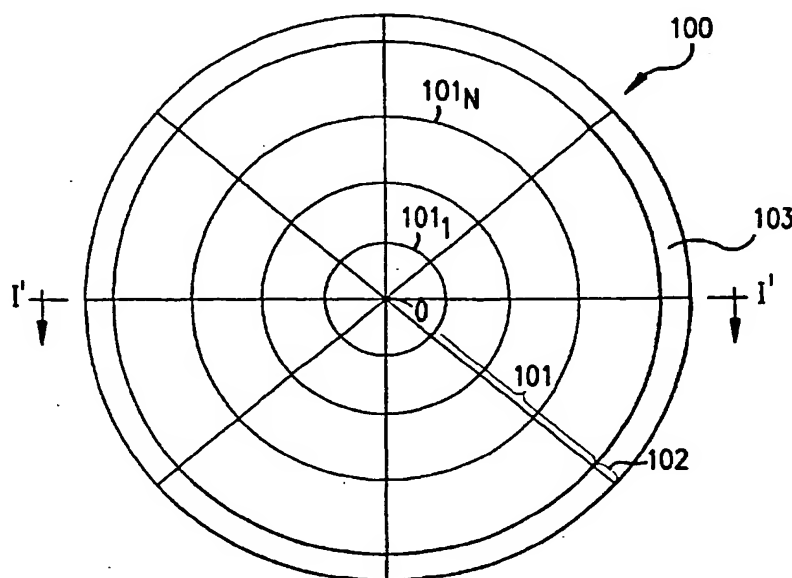


FIG. 1A

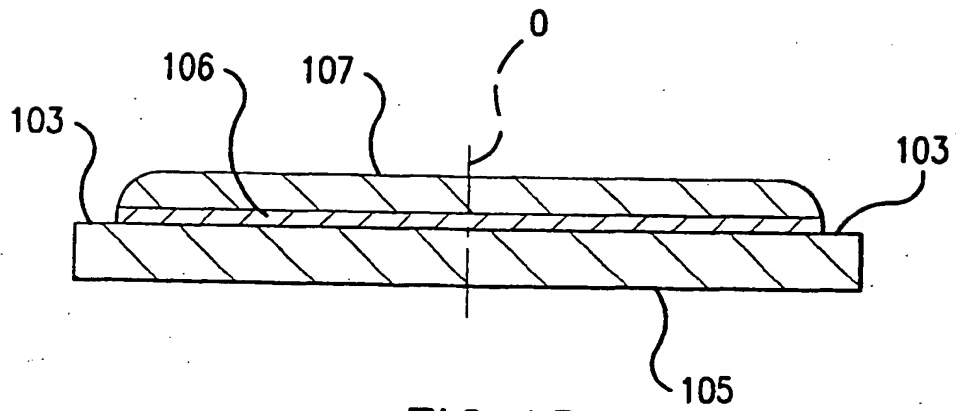


FIG.1B

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The invention relates generally to optical recording media such as for example, digital video disks (DVDs), compact disks (CDs) and compact disk read only memories (CD-ROMs). More particularly, the present invention relates to optical recording media having both a mainly read-only part containing information recorded in a manufacturing process and a read/write part in which information can be written, erased, changed and read subsequent to the manufacturing process.

Description of the Related Art

Current read-only optical technology enables large amounts of information to be permanently stored on a relatively small optical medium. However, ~~it has a problem that the original information cannot be changed and additional information cannot easily be written to the disk after original information has been recorded in a manufacturing process.~~ Furthermore, the original information is usually pre-recorded in a standard format which cannot be changed. Read/write optical technology is developing but is not widely in use.

A conventional read-only CD typically contains a plurality of different songs recorded at once on a large number of CDs in a mass manufacturing process. Programmable CD players are available which can be programmed by a user to read and play only selected ones of the songs on a CD and to play the selected songs in a certain order according to a user's personal tastes. The program is stored in a memory within the CD player. However, if the CD is played in another CD player, then the user has to program that other CD player as well. And if a CD player cannot distinguish between different CDs and the user wishes to have a customized program for each one of the different CDs, they then have to reprogram the CD player each time a different CD is put into the player.

Some CD players may be configured so that they can detect and distinguish between CDs on the basis of information, such as serial number or code number, recorded on the CDs during the manufacturing process, store customized programs keyed to respective corresponding one of the CDs, and execute the customized program corresponding to an identified CD. Even so, because the customized program is stored in a memory of the CD player, if the CD player becomes inoperable, loses power or suffers a power surge, or if the memory fails for any reason, then the program is irretrievably lost and the user again has to reprogram the CD player. Such reprogramming is especially time consuming if the CD player is a jukebox type CD player containing, for example, a number of different programs for a large number

of different CDs.

Of course, machines such as DVD players or personal computers may also be configured to accept a number of different types of customizations keyed to corresponding CDs besides playback programs. For example, the machines may be customized to display the title, artist or other information related to a song to be played or other information to be read from the recording medium. Since conventional read-only optical disks contain information recorded in accordance with a highly structured standard format, it is not possible to add such supplementary information to the disk. Therefore, ~~even though optical recorders are available which can write onto optical recording mediums, they cannot be used to record additional information onto media already having pre-recorded information recorded according to a highly structured standard format in a manufacturing process.~~

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a hybrid optical recording medium which allows original information that is pre-recorded in a manufacturing process to be supplemented by additional information written to the disk after the original information has been recorded.

A key feature of the medium is that it contains a first area for storing information which is pre-recorded according to a highly structured standard format and a record area in which information can thereafter be written, read back therefrom, erased and changed by a user.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, an optical disk is used which is similar to a conventional DVD, CD or CD-ROM disk and contains information recorded according to a standard read-only format except that a read/write area is also provided somewhere on the disk. A disk drive apparatus is configured to read the information recorded according to the standard read-only format and to read, write, erase and change information in the read/write area. The disk drive apparatus is preferably an integral part of an information processing system. A controller of the disk drive apparatus interacts with a processor of the information processing system. The read/write area is utilized according to instructions from the processor.

The advantages and novel features of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this disclosure, including the following detail description, as well as by practice of the invention. While the invention is described below with reference to preferred embodiments, it should be understood that the invention is not limited thereto. Those of ordinary skill in the art having access to the teachings herein will recognize additional applications, modifications and embodiments in the same or other fields, which are within the scope of the invention as disclosed and claimed herein and with respect to which the invention could be of sig-

nificant utility.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1A is an illustrative dimensional view of one embodiment of a hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 1B is a cross-sectional view of said one embodiment of a hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with the present invention taken along line I'-I'.

Figure 2 is an illustration of the relative position of the elements of a first embodiment of the disk drive apparatus in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 3 is an illustration of the relative position of the elements of a second embodiment of the disk drive apparatus in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of one embodiment of an information processing system in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 5 is a flowchart of a method carried out by the information processing system shown in Fig. 4.

NOTATION AND NOMENCLATURES

The detailed descriptions which follow may be presented in terms of program procedures executed on a computer or network of computers. These procedural descriptions and representations are the means used by those skilled in the art to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art.

A procedure is here, and generally, conceived to be a self-consistent sequence of steps leading to a desired result. These steps are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated. It proves convenient at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to these signals as bits, values, elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers, or the like. It should be noted, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities.

Further, the manipulations performed are often referred to in terms, such as adding or comparing, which are commonly associated with mental operations performed by a human operator. No such capability of a human operator is necessary, or desirable in most cases, in any of the operations described herein which form part of the present invention; the operations are machine operations. Useful machines for performing the operation of the present invention include general purpose digital computers or similar devices.

The present invention also relates to apparatus for performing these operations. This apparatus may be specially constructed for the required purpose, such as

CD player or DVD player, or it may comprise a general purpose computer as selectively activated or reconfigured by a computer program stored in the computer. The procedures presented herein are not inherently related to a particular computer or other apparatus. Various general purpose machines may be used with programs written in accordance with the teachings herein, or it may prove more convenient to construct more specialized apparatus to perform the required method steps. The required structure for a variety of these machines will appear from the description given.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

One embodiment of the hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with the invention will now be described with reference to Figures 1A and 1B. As shown in Fig. 1A, the disk 100 has an optical read-only part 101 made up of a plurality of circular tracks 101₁ to 101_N, each one of which is divided into a number of sectors by radial lines extending from the center O of the disk. Each one of the tracks can have the same number of sectors, in which case the size of the sectors is larger for tracks near the circumference of the disk, or the number of sectors can vary with the size of the sectors remaining constant. Information is pre-recorded in read-only part 101 in accordance with a standard read-only format.

A separate recording area 103 is positioned beyond the outermost track of the read-only part 101 and comprises a magnetic read/write part 102 of the disk. Preferably, the read/write part 102 is composed of only a single track, however it may be composed of as many tracks as desired. Separate recording area 103 may be divided into the same number of sectors as tracks 101₁ to 101_N or a larger number. While the size of the read/write part 102 will necessarily depend upon its use, it is anticipated that a relatively small amount of information would need to be written in read/write part 102 and that therefore its size will be small relative to the size of read-only part 101. Magnetic read/write part 102 is also preferably simpler and lower in density and cost than optical read-only part 101. Information can be written in accordance with a standard or nonstandard format.

Figure 1B shows a cross section of disk 100 along line I'-I'. The disk is composed of a substrate 105, an optical layer 106 containing tracks 101₁ to 101_N, and a translucent finishing layer 107. The finishing layer 107 is coated on at least layer 106 of read-only part 101 in order to protect it. The circular track(s) of read/write part 102 may be deposited directly on substrate 105, on layer 107 or on some other layer suitable as a base for magnetic recording. While read/write part 102 is composed of a circular track(s) on a rotating disk in the preferred embodiment of the invention, one or more linear track(s) may be used instead.

Fig. 2 shows the relative position of the elements

of a first embodiment of the disk drive apparatus 200 in accordance with the present invention for optical disk 100 shown in Figs 1A and 1B. A conventional high density optical read head 201 is used containing, for example, a semiconductor laser to provide incident light for reading and a detector to detect the information recorded in read only part 101 and generate a corresponding read signal as an output. Optical read head 201 is controllably movable in a straight radial line from position 201₁ at which it reads the information recorded in track 101₁ to position 201_N at which it reads the information recorded in track 101_N. Read head 201 is also of course controllable by controller 203 so as to be positionable at positions corresponding respectively to each one of said tracks 101₁ to 101_N.

A conventional magnetic read/write head 202 is provided to read, write, erase and change information at the track(s) of read/write part 102. Preferably, read/write part 102 is composed of a single circular track, in which case read/write head 202 is a very simple fixed-position read/write head and is not movable in the radial direction. Even if read/write part 102 is composed of several tracks, the control circuitry and/or mechanism for read/write head 202 is different than that for read head 201. For example, magnetic read/write head 202 is controllably lowered to a position immediately adjacent the disk when reading, writing, erasing or changing information in the track(s) of read/write part 102 and lifted out away from the disk the rest of the time, thereby saving wear and tear on the disk and the head.

The embodiment of disk 100 and disk drive device 200 shown in Figs. 1A, 1B and 2 is but one of several different possible embodiments of the invention. For example, magnetic read/write part 102 may be located at any area of disk 100, such as the central portion, which is not used to record information in the read-only part according to a standard format. Furthermore, although read/write head 202 is preferably stationary in the radial direction, it may be movable away from the disk 100 in situations where a track of read-only part 101 is so close to a track of read/write part 102 to possibly cause collision of the heads otherwise and thereby permit full access of read head 201 to all of the tracks 101₁ to 101_N.

In addition, the read/write part 102 may be an optical part in which information is written, read, erased and changed optically. In such an embodiment, it is preferable that the same high density optical head be used for both read-only part 101 and read/write part 102 recording information optically. In such a case, the optical head uses a laser system which emits two different beams - one being used just for reading and the other being used just for writing.

As a further alternative, read/write part 102 may be on an area on the opposite side of disk 100 from the side of disk 100 containing the area for read-only part 101. In such an embodiment, read head 201 is located adjacent an opposite side of disk 100 than read/write head 202. Both read head 201 and read/write head 202 are

thus movable in the radial direction as shown in Fig. 3 in order to be controllably positioned by controller 203 at each one of the tracks of read-only part 101 and read/write part 102. This embodiment is especially useful in applications in which it is desired to provide a large read/write part. For example, the read/write part could be used to store updates to a reference CD-ROM. Original information could be pre-recorded on read-only part 101 and then periodically updated with the supplemental information stored in read/write part 102. Such information could be downloaded to the CD-ROM through an information processing system such as a computer shown in Fig. 4.

As shown in Figure 4, the computer has a central processing unit (CPU) 400 operatively connected to memory devices 410A and 410B, namely read-only memory (ROM) 410a and random access memory (RAM) 410b. ROM memory 410a typically stores BIOS and operating system like information. Programming which instructs the CPU 400 to operate in accordance with the present invention as will be described in detail below may be stored in ROM or RAM. Data and information received or generated by the CPU 400 can be preferably stored in RAM 410b. Memory devices such as hard drive 472 or floppy disk drive 473, SRAM, DRAM, etc., could be utilized in addition to the hybrid disk drive 200 for a hybrid optical disk recording medium, as is well understood by those of skill in the art. The CPU 400 is also operatively connected to input device 420 which could be a key pad, key board, dial or virtually any other device which would facilitate the input of data, of the type described below, to the CPU 400 by a user.

The information processing system may alternatively constitute a CD player, DVD player, or computer which is different than the computer shown in Fig. 4, although the system must have bidirectional data transfer capabilities through a disk controller 470 or similar element. It is also to be understood that the elements of the system must be programmed to perform a variety of different operations. In particular, CPU 400 can be programmed to implement different methods of using read/write part 102 in conjunction with the reading of information pre-recorded in read-only part 101.

For example, CPU 400 can be programmed to perform the method shown in Fig. 5 of assigning serial or code numbers to different disks and using the serial numbers to identify a disk and implement a customized routine in conjunction with the reading of information pre-recorded in the read-only part 101 of the disk. In step S501, whenever a disk is received in the disk drive 200, it is read to determine if it is a hybrid disk and, if so, whether a read/write part 102 thereof contains an serial number identifying the disk. If the disk is a hybrid disk having no serial number in read/write part 102, then it is assigned a serial number by CPU 400 (step S502) and the serial number is written into read/write part 102 of the disk (step S503).

Thereafter, the information processing system en-

ters a program mode (step S504) where it accepts and retains inputs from a user or other information indicating a preferred customization for the reading of information pre-recorded in the read-only part 101 of the disk. These inputs could indicate, for example, a preferred playback program for a series of songs recorded in read-only part 101 of a hybrid CD or the preferred settings of equipment used in a home theater surround sound system to reproduce video and audio of a movie recorded in the read-only part of a hybrid DVD. Alternatively, the system could constantly monitor the reading of information from the read-only part 101 of the hybrid disk and maintain the last position of a user in the information (the information can be a video, song, game position, etc., as well as text). The program mode continues and the inputs or monitored information is kept in RAM 410B until it is detected in step S505 that the disk session is completed (user discontinues uses or turns power off, etc.). When the session is complete, CPU 400 then causes the inputs or monitored information to be transferred from RAM 410B to read/write part 102 of disk 100 (step S506) and the serial number of the disk and corresponding control information to be kept in RAM 410B of the information processing system (step S507). In the examples given, the user's preferred playback program, electronic bookmark, game status, etc. are stored in read/write part 102.

When the disk is subsequently inserted into the disk drive 200, it will again be scanned and this time the serial number will be detected and read from read/write part 102. The serial number will be matched with the record thereof and the corresponding control information kept in RAM 410B (step S508). The control information is used as an index to identify the category of the disk and the format of the inputs or information stored in the read/write part thereof. For example, the control information can indicate that the disk is a CD and the inputs stored in the read/write part thereof indicate a playback program or that the disk is a CD-ROM game and the information stored in the read/write part thereof is indicative of the ending game position. The information processing system then carries out the program or otherwise performs steps in accordance with the control information corresponding to the serial number and the information in the read/write part of the hybrid disk.

Another example of a program performed by the CPU 400 in the information processing system using read/write part 102 in conjunction with the reading of information pre-recorded in read-only part 101 are the storage of keys for unlocking purchase songs from a collection of songs, videos, etc. from a large capacity hybrid disk. Another method could use the read/write part 102 as keys for unlocking fonts or applications. The read/write part 102 could also be used to record the progress or speed of a user, such as a student, reading the pre-recorded information in the read-only part 101 of the hybrid disks. Of course, there may be numerous methods which may be implemented by an information process-

ing system by using the read/write part of the hybrid disk according to this invention.

In this disclosure, there is shown and described only the preferred embodiment of the invention, but, as aforementioned, it is to be understood that the invention is capable of use in various other combinations and environments and is capable of changes or modifications within the scope of the inventive concept as expressed herein.

Claims

1. A disk drive device for driving a hybrid optical disk recording medium, comprising:

a read head configured to detect information recorded in a first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with a standard format and to generate a first read signal representing the information detected in the first area;

a read/write head configured to read information in a second area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium and generate a second read signal representing said information recorded in the second area and to record information in the second area in accordance with a write signal, information in said second area being recorded in a format other than said standard format; and

a controller configured to control said read head and said read/write head, to output said first read signal generated by said read head and said second read signal generated by said read/write head, and to receive and forward said write signal to said read/write head.

2. A disk drive device according to claim 1, wherein said read head comprises an optical read head and said read/write head comprises a magnetic read/write head.
3. A disk drive device according to claim 1, wherein said first area is on a first side of said hybrid optical disk recording medium, said second area is on a second side of said hybrid optical disk recording medium, said read head is located opposite said first side of said hybrid optical disk recording medium and said read/write head is located opposite said second side of said hybrid optical disk recording medium.
4. A disk drive device according to claim 1, wherein said first area comprises a plurality of circumferential tracks on said hybrid optical disk recording medium, said second area comprises a single circumferential track on said hybrid optical disk recording

medium, said read head is a moving read head and said read/write head is a stationary read/write head positioned at said single circumferential track.

5. A disk drive device according to claim 4, wherein said single circumferential track is located near the outside edge of said disk.
6. A disk drive device according to claim 1, wherein said information is recorded in said first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with the standard CD format.
7. A disk drive device according to claim 1, wherein said information is recorded in said first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with the standard DVD format.
8. A disk drive device according to claim 1, wherein information is recorded in said first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with the standard CD-ROM format.
9. An information processing system, comprising:

a disk drive device driving a hybrid optical disk recording medium, said disk drive device comprising:

a read head configured to detect information recorded in a first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with a standard format and to generate a first read signal representing the information detected in the first area,

a read/write head configured to read information in a second area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium and generate a second read signal representing said information recorded in the second area and to record information in the second area in accordance with a write signal, information in said second area being recorded in a format other than said standard format and

a controller configured to control said read head and said read/write head, to output said first read signal generated by said read head and said second read signal generated by said read/write head, and to receive and forward said write signal to said read/write head; and a processor configured to provide control signals to said controller of said disk drive device for causing said controller to control said read head and said read/write head, to receive and process said first read signal and said second read signal output by said controller and to provide said write signal to said controller.

10. An information processing system according to

claim 9, wherein said information processing system comprises a CD player and said hybrid optical disk recording medium comprises a CD having a plurality of audio tracks recorded in said first area.

11. An information processing system according to claim 10, wherein said processor operates in accordance with programmed instructions to cause said controller to store, in said second area, a customized playback program for said plurality of audio tracks recorded in said first area.
12. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein said information processing system comprises a computer and said hybrid optical disk recording medium comprises a CD-ROM having a plurality of multimedia data files recorded in said first area.
13. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein said information processing system comprises a DVD player and said hybrid optical disk recording medium comprises a DVD.
14. An information processing system according to claim 13, wherein said processor operates in accordance with programmed instructions to cause said controller to store, in said second area, keys for unlocking data files recorded in said first area.
15. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein said processor operates in accordance with programmed instructions to cause said controller to store, in said second area, keys for unlocking fonts and applications recorded in said first area.
16. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein said processor operates in accordance with programmed instructions to cause said controller to store, in said second area, information indicating the speed with which a user is reading files recorded in said first area.
17. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein said processor operates in accordance with programmed instructions to cause said controller to store, in said second area, information serving to identify said hybrid optical disk recording medium.
18. An information processing system according to claim 9, wherein said processor operates in accordance with programmed instructions to cause said controller to store, in said second area, bookmarks marking the last piece of information read from said first area.

19. A method of processing information comprising the steps of:

detecting information recorded in a first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with a standard format;
generating a first read signal representing the information detected in the first area;
reading information in a second area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium;
generating a second read signal representing said information recorded in the second area;
recording information in the second area in accordance with a write signal in a format other than said standard format; and
controlling said steps of detecting, generating a first read signal, reading, generating a second read signal, and recording in accordance with instructions from a processor.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of controlling is conducted in accordance with programmed instructions from said processor to store, in said second area, a customized playback program for a plurality of audio tracks recorded in said first area.
21. A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of controlling is conducted in accordance with programmed instructions from said processor to store, in said second area, keys for unlocking data files recorded in said first area.
22. A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of controlling is conducted in accordance with programmed instructions from said processor to store, in said second area, keys for unlocking fonts and applications recorded in said first area.
23. A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of controlling is conducted in accordance with programmed instructions from said processor to store, in said second area, a record of the speed of a user's progress of files recorded in said first area.
24. A method according to claim 19, wherein said step of controlling is conducted in accordance with programmed instructions from said processor to store, in said second area, information serving to identify said hybrid optical disk recording medium.
25. A hybrid optical disk recording medium, comprising:
- a first area having information recorded in accordance with a standard format, said first area being finished and sealed in a manufacturing process;
a second area prepared to have information

written thereto, read or erased therefrom and/or changed by a disk drive device in accordance with a format other than said standard format.

26. A hybrid optical disk recording medium according to claim 25, wherein said first area is on a first side of said hybrid optical disk recording medium and said second area is on a second side of said hybrid optical disk recording medium.
27. A hybrid optical disk recording medium according to claim 25, wherein said first area comprises a plurality of circumferential tracks and said second area comprises a single circumferential track.
28. A hybrid optical disk recording medium according to claim 27, wherein said single circumferential track is located near the outside edge of said hybrid optical disk recording medium.
29. A hybrid optical disk recording medium according to claim 25, wherein said information is recorded in said first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with the standard CD format.
30. A hybrid optical disk recording medium according to claim 25, wherein said information is recorded in said first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with the standard DVD format.
31. A hybrid optical disk recording medium according to claim 25, wherein information is recorded in said first area of said hybrid optical disk recording medium in accordance with standard CD-ROM format.
32. A hybrid optical disk recording medium according to claim 25, wherein said second area comprises magnetic material deposited on the surface of a standard format optical disk.
33. An optical disk comprising a read-only region (101) bearing optical pre-recorded data, and characterised by a read-write region (102) in which data can read and rewritten.
34. A disk according to claim 33 wherein the read-write region (102) includes a magnetic recording medium.
35. A drive unit for a disk according to claim 33 or 34, including means (201) for reading data optically from the read-only region (101), and characterised by means for reading and writing data to and from the read-write region (102).

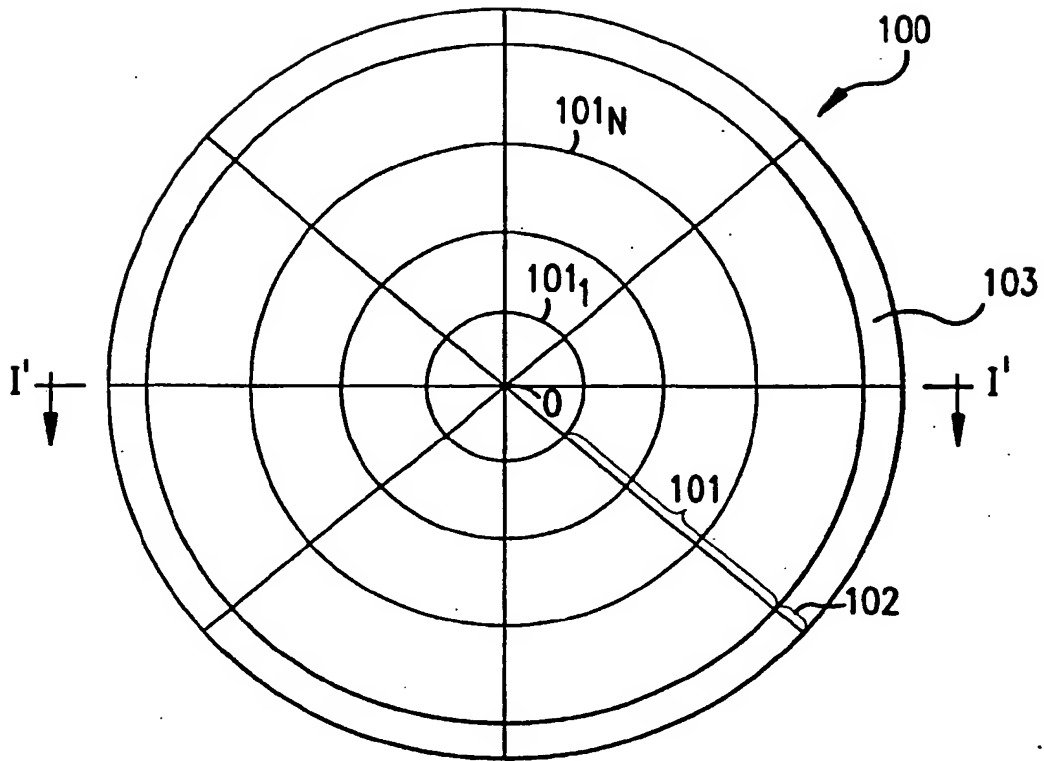


FIG. 1A

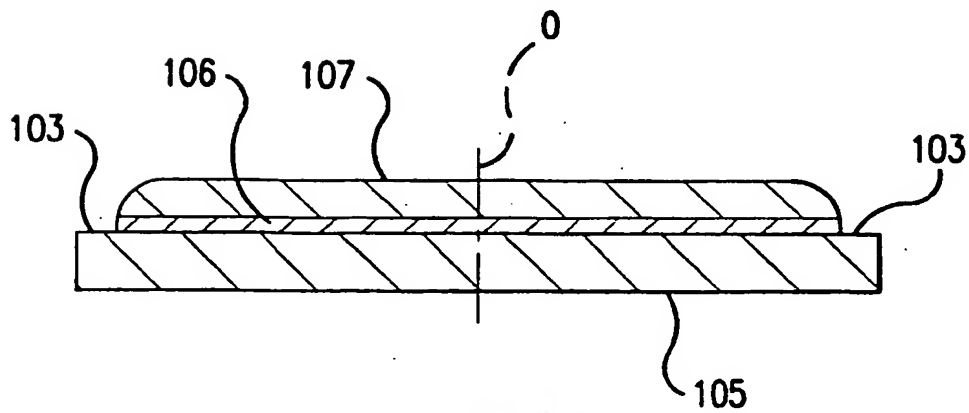


FIG. 1B

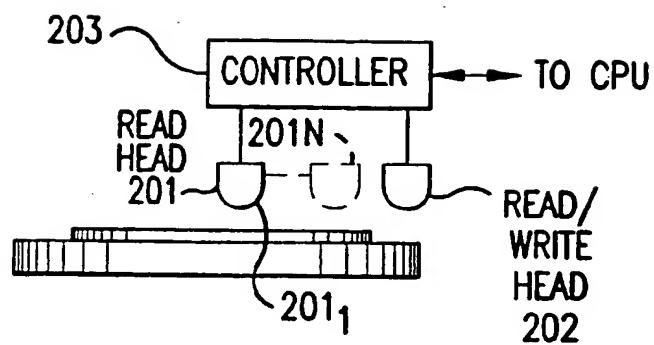


FIG.2

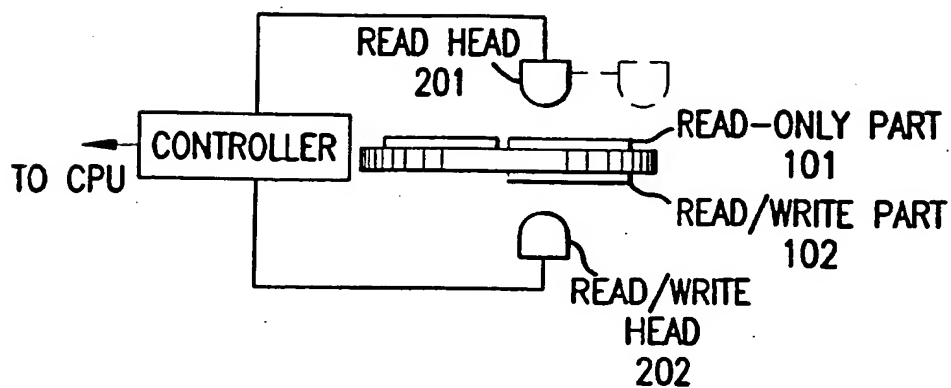


FIG.3

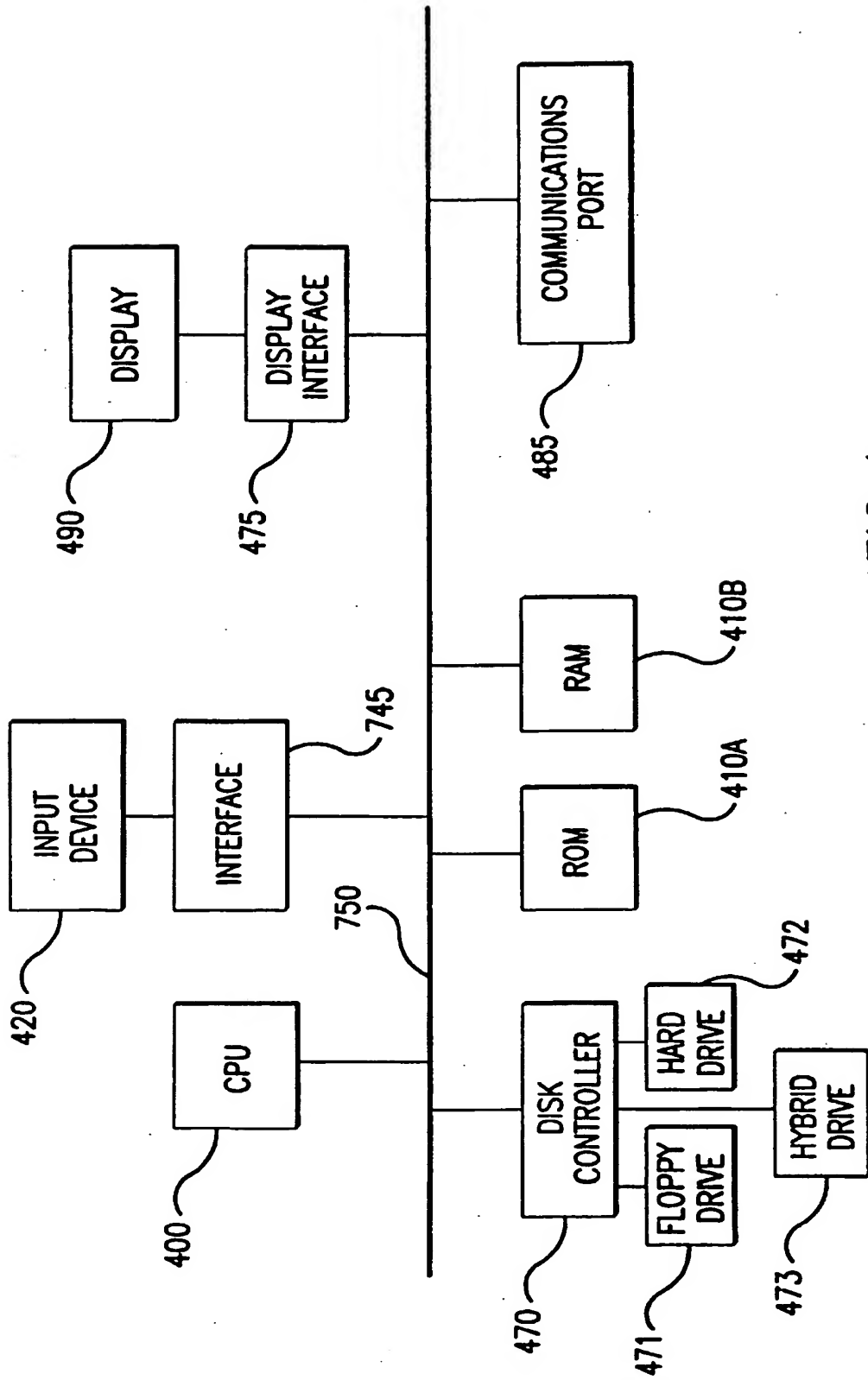


FIG. 4

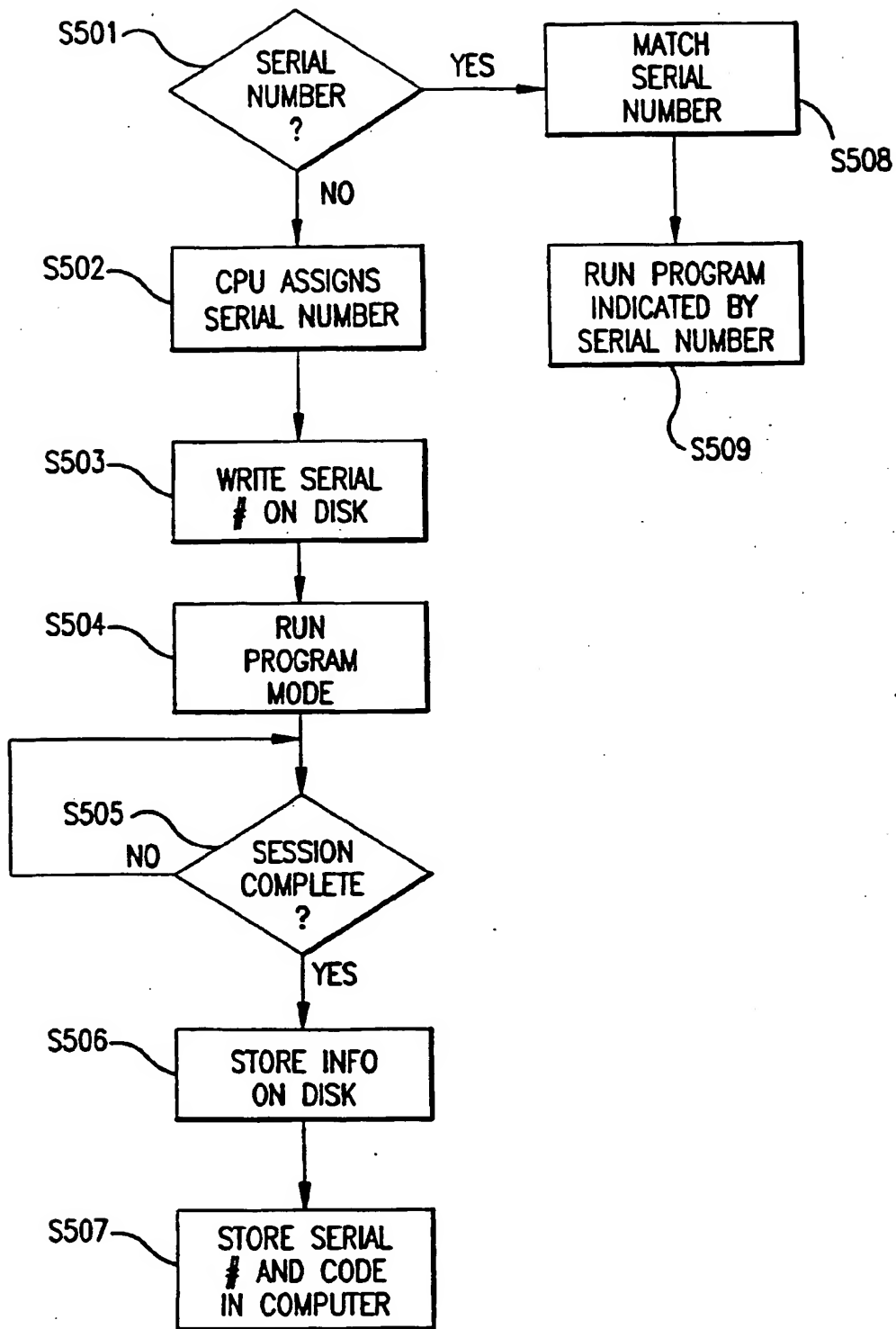


FIG.5



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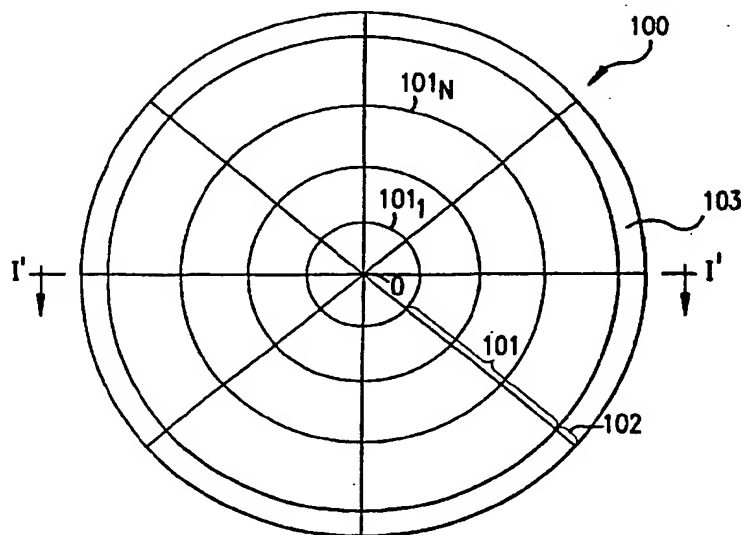


FIG. 1A

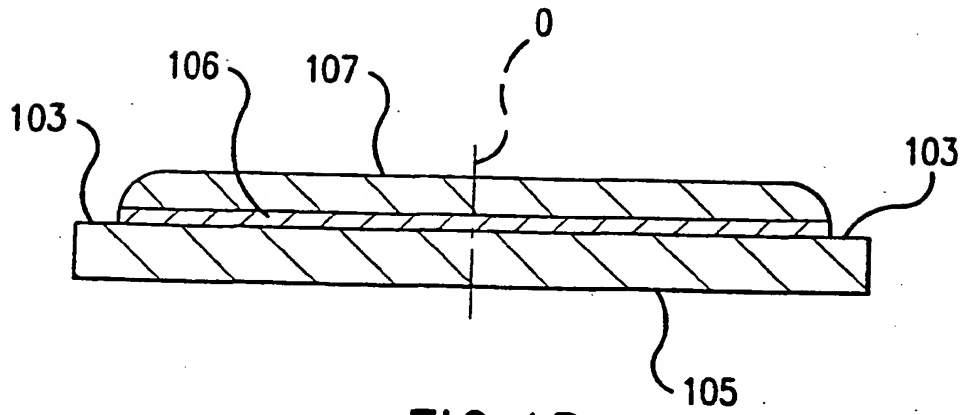


FIG.1B



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 4476

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
X	US 5 291 462 A (RICHARDS ROBERT E) 1 March 1994 * abstract * * column 1, line 23 - line 43 * * column 6, line 23 - column 9, line 50; figures 1-4 *	1-6, 8-12,19, 20, 25-29, 31-35	G11B7/007 G11B7/00 G11B13/04 G11B19/02 G11B23/34
X	EP 0 561 000 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 22 September 1993 * abstract * * page 1, line 10 - line 16; figure 7 *	1-3,8,9, 12,19, 25,26, 31-35	
X	EP 0 634 741 A (FUJITSU LTD) 18 January 1995 * column 8, line 42 - column 10, line 58; figures 1,3 *	1,8,9, 12,14, 19,21, 25,31, 33,35	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5) G11B
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 August 1998	Examiner Annibal, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1603 03 82 (P04C01)



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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X	NL 8 403 756 A (PHILIPS NV) 1 July 1986 * page 1, line 1 - page 3, line 11; figure 1 *	1-3,8,9, 12,19, 25,26, 31-35	
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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 August 1998	Examiner Annibal, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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